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GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY SIGNS CLEAN ENERGY BILLS INTO LAW: MAJOR WIN FOR GREEN JOBS, SUSTAINABILITY

ANNAPOLIS, MD (May 20, 2010) – After championing much needed new clean energy legislation during the 2010 legislative session, Governor Martin O'Malley today signed into law a series of five bills that will promote green job creation for our workers and sustainability across our State. Governor O'Malley's 2010 Energy Agenda focused on increasing renewable energy production and tax credits for Maryland families and workforce. The bills signed today as a result of the tireless leadership of the O'Malley-Brown Administration will also help to promote the use of electric vehicles and will continue to spur clean energy development in Maryland.

"Energy touches every aspect of our lives from the cost of heating our homes to sustaining our resources for future generations," said Governor O'Malley. "In these last three years, we have made the choices that have transformed Maryland into one of the leading clean energy states in the nation. Each of the bills signed into law today will provide resources and incentives for our families and workforce, create jobs, and fuel innovation as we continue to strive for a Maryland that is truly *Smart, Green and Growing*."

Key bills enacted include an acceleration of the State's solar Renewable Portfolio Standard to put more clean energy on the grid faster, *as well as* successfully extending renewable energy tax credits for businesses interested in going green, *and* tax credits for families to purchase plug-in electric vehicles as they become commercially available later over the coming year.

"The O'Malley-Brown Administration is committed to fighting every fight when it comes to creating green jobs for our workers and making clean, reliable and affordable energy available for our families and businesses," said Maryland Energy Administration Director Malcolm Woolf. "The bills signed into law today mark yet another huge energy "win" for Marylanders."

The O'Malley-Brown Administration's new energy legislation impacts Maryland as follows:

HB 469 Motor Vehicle Excise Tax - Tax Credit For Electric Vehicles

This Administration bill creates a tax credit for the purchase of qualified plug-in electric vehicles equal to 100% of the State vehicle excise tax imposed, not to exceed \$2,000. The bill requires a transfer of \$279,000 from the Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund to the Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) in fiscal 2011, \$939,600 in fiscal 2012, and \$1,287,000 in fiscal 2013. The tax

credit applies to electric vehicles purchased from October 1, 2010 to June 30, 2013.

SB 602 High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lanes - Use by Plug-In Vehicles

HB 674

This bill authorizes a “plug-in electric vehicle” affixed with a State permit designating it as such to use high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes. There are HOV lanes along two federal highways in the State: one on I-270 in Montgomery County; and one on U.S. Route 50 in Prince George’s County. The bill will sunset on October 1, 2013.

HB 464 Maryland Clean Energy Incentive Act of 2010

This Administration bill extends the termination date of the clean energy incentive tax credit to December 31, 2015. The bill also extends to January 1, 2016, the date by which a facility must begin producing qualified energy in order to claim the credit; and prohibits the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) from issuing an initial credit certificate for less than \$1,000. The bill also makes the clean energy incentive tax credit refundable.

SB 277 Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Solar Energy

This Administration bill increases the percentage requirements of the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards (RPS) that must be purchased from Tier 1 solar energy sources each year between 2011 and 2016. The bill also increases the alternative compliance payment (ACP) for a shortfall in solar RPS requirements by \$0.05 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) over the current amount in 2011 and 2012, by \$0.10 per kWh between 2013 and 2016.

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